Appln. No. 09/961,362
Amendment dated: January 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended):   A method of communicating between a host optical system controller and an optical subcontroller, the method comprising:

sending an initial command message from said host to said subcontroller, said command message including a first command identifier indicating a command from said host to said subcontroller;

receiving said first command message at said subcontroller;

consulting a command database at said subcontroller to interpret said first command message, said database containing mulitple possible valid command identifiers, each command identifier having a corresponding interpretation and action in said database based on a specific type of optical device connected to said subcontroller;

at said subcontroller, implementing an action corresponding to said first command message based on said corresponding interpretation of said command identifier and formulating a proper response to said command identifier based on a result of said corresponding action; and

sending a response message from said subcontroller to said host, said response message indicating a success or failure of said corresponding action,

wherein said subcontroller ignores subsequent command messages received prior to sending a response message responsive to the first command message, and

wherein said subcontroller controls at least one optical device for use in optical

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    <u>and wherein in the event said corresponding action is successful, said response</u>
<u>message will include said first command identifier,</u>
    <u>and wherein in the event said corresponding action is a failure, said response</u>
<u>message is an error message.</u>

Claim 2 (Original):   A method as in claim 1 wherein each response message includes at least one optical parameter to be set by said optical subcontroller.

Claim 3 (Original):   A method as in claim 1 wherein said first command message includes at least one optical parameter to be set by said optical subcontroller.

Claim 4 (Original):   A method as in claim 3 wherein said first command message further includes at least one magnitude to which said at least one optical parameter is to be set.

Claim 5 (Original):   A method as in claim 1 wherein said first command message further includes addressing data indicating a portion of an optical subsystem controlled by said optical subcontroller to which the command is to be applied.